WILSON TUMWEBAZE BD 3 M22B09/024 Sermon 1 Haggai 2:1-9

Friends! Today, let's turn our hearts and minds to the **Haggai 2:1-9**. This passage recounts a significant moment Haggai addresses the people of Judah regarding the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Let us read the scripture together:

Haggai 2:1-9 is a passage from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, where the prophet Haggai addresses the people of Judah regarding the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of Haggai is set in the post-exilic period, after the return of the Jewish people from Babylonian captivity around 520 BCE. The primary concern of Haggai's prophecy is the rebuilding of the Second Temple. Here is a detailed analysis of this passage.

The passage begins with the prophet Haggai addressing the leaders and people of Judah. They have returned from exile and are in the process of rebuilding the temple, which had been destroyed. The people are disheartened because the new temple seems insignificant compared to the former one.

When we read verse 1-2, we look at time and Audience Haggai was addressing. The prophecy is delivered on the 21st day of the seventh month (Tishri), during the Feast of Tabernacles. Haggai addresses Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, Joshua the high priest, and the remnant of the people.

This time was set for the timing during the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration of the harvest and remembrance of the Israelites' wilderness journey, underscores the themes of renewal and divine provision as a chosen race.

Verse 3 is about the comparison of Solomon's Temple. Haggai asks who among them saw the former Temple in its glory and how they see it now. The implication is that the new Temple seems insignificant compared to Solomon's Temple.

Reflection of Psychological and Emotional Impact. The question was paused to the elders who remember the former Temple are likely disheartened by the humble beginnings of the new construction.

Verses 4-5 encouragement people to Work: God, through Haggai, encourages Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people to be strong and work because He is with them.

The sure Divine Presence of the new temple. The assurance of God's presence is rooted in His covenant, which includes the Spirit remaining among the people, countering any fear.

Verses 6-7 promise the Future Glory of the Temple. God declares that in a little while He will shake the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land. All nations will come with their wealth to fill the Temple with glory.

Universal Impact not on only Israel. This shaking signifies a cosmic event, indicating that God's plan involves all nations and not just Israel. The wealth of the nations will contribute to the glory of the new Temple.

Verse 8 Explains Divine Ownership of all precious things. God asserts that all silver and gold belong to Him, emphasizing that He can provide what is needed to beautify the Temple.

God's Provision. This is a reminder that the resources for the Temple are under divine control, reducing the anxiety about material needs.

Verse 9 promises both peace and Greater Glory of the future temple. God promises that the glory of the latter Temple will be greater than the former. This is significant because it points to a future fulfillment that surpasses past experiences.

Promise of Peace as a result the second Temple. The promise concludes with a declaration of peace (shalom) in this place, indicating divine blessing and favor from God to His people of the second Temple.

Central Message

The central message of this passage is one of encouragement and hope. When we read Haggai 2:4-5, God was not only promising hope to His people, but ensuring them to have it. However, He even emphasized them to work for that hope. Even Peter in his letter 1 peter 1:3, Ensured people how this hope came to pass through Jesus Christ. And He who caused us to be born again to a living hope through Jesus' resurrection. Even when we read Romans 15:13, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalms 42:11, Even Isaiah 40:31, we see God's promise of hope coming true to His people. But they have to work for it through renewing their ways and become born again.

Despite the humble beginnings and apparent inferiority of the current temple project, God promises a future of greater glory and peace. Haggai 2:7, God communicated on how He will shake all nations for treasures to come in the house that was to be built. The later glory God assured on how it will be greater. Even verse 9, God said that the house shall be greater than the former. Says the Lord of hosts. And when we read Isaiah 60:1, we see God commanding His people to rise, shine, because their light has come and the Glory of the Lord has risen upon them. Even Jesus' gospel according to John 1:14 affirms this. Paul also talked about the fulfillment of this in his letter to Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 3:18 also he talked about the same thing.

And for Peace Haggai 2:9, God said it clear that the place will give peace. Declared the Lord of hosts. Even when you read Isaiah 26:3, we see that those whose minds stayed on God, trusting Him, God will keep them in peace. And John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7, and Romans 5:1, are the fulfilments of this peace God promised in the future temple.

This message underscores God's faithfulness, His presence with His people, and His power to bring about a magnificent future despite present discouragements. Haggai 2:9, God Himself promised to affirm His faithfulness to fulfil His promise in the future temple. It was fulfilled, when we read Deuteronomy 7:9, still God was illustrated faithful. And in Lamentations 3:22-23, we see

the greatness of God’s faithfulness through His steadfast love that never ceases. When we read 1 Corinthians 1:9, we were called into the fellowship of his son, Jesus Crist our Lord by God who is faithful. Also, 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and Hebrews 10:23, Paul made it clear that He who promised is faithful, that is God.

What should we do?

Perseverance. Friends, this passage encourages perseverance to us in the face of discouragement, the importance of focusing on God’s presence rather than material circumstances, and trust in divine provision for achieving what seems impossible.

Overcoming Discouragement: Just as the Israelites were disheartened by comparing the new temple to the old, we often face discouragement when our current efforts don't seem to measure up to past successes. God’s message through Haggai is to take heart and continue the work. The value of our efforts is not always immediately apparent, but God sees the bigger picture.

Strength in God’s Presence: The command to "be strong" is repeated three times, emphasizing its importance. We draw strength not from our circumstances, but from the presence and promises of God. In times of difficulty, remembering God’s faithfulness and presence with us can give us the strength to persevere.

Focus on God’s Promises: The future glory promised by God was far beyond what the people could see at the time. This teaches us to focus on God’s promises rather than our current situation. God’s plans for us often involve a future we cannot yet see, but His promises are sure.

God’s Provision: God reminds the people that all silver and gold belong to Him. This reassures us that God has the resources to fulfill His promises. When we worry about lack whether it be resources, talent, or opportunity we can trust that God will provide what is needed in His time.

Peace Through God’s Plan: The ultimate promise is that of peace. This peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a holistic sense of well-being that comes from being in right relationship with God. As we trust in God’s promises and remain faithful in our work, we can experience His peace in our lives.

Friends:

Haggai 2:1-9 is a message of encouragement and hope, emphasizing God’s presence, provision, and the future glory of the Temple that surpasses the former. It reassures the people of Judah that their efforts in rebuilding the Temple are divinely supported and will lead to greater things.

Therefore, Haggai 2:1-9 is a powerful reminder of God's unwavering presence and faithfulness. It calls us to persevere in our work, draw strength from God's promises, and look forward to the greater glory and peace that God has planned. Let us take heart and continue in our efforts, trusting that God is with us and that our labor is not in vain.